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Office of the Provincial Vicar

February 28, 2018

POSTAL REGULATORY  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Commissioner Robert Taub, Chairman  
Commissioner Nanci Langley  
Commissioner Mark Acton  
Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20268

RE: Docket No. RM2017-3

Dear Commissioners:

We join the nonprofit mailing community in urging you to reconsider your proposal to increase postage rates several times the rate of inflation. Increases that are estimated to reach 7 percent a year, or 40 percent compounded for five years, will not reform the United States Postal Service and will have a major negative impact on both the agency and its customers.

As a nonprofit, we rely on mail for the majority of our fundraising. But we operate on a limited, fixed fundraising budget each year, so if postage goes up as much as you contemplate, we will be forced to greatly reduce our mailings. This will have a disastrous impact on our revenue and our mission.

We serve the poor and neglected with ministries such as soup kitchens, tuition assistance, youth programs, and more throughout the United States and abroad. At present, direct mail fundraising accounts for about 80% of our revenue from donors.

If we are spending increases totaling 40 percent over the next five years, we will have to decrease the services we offer to the poor. In addition, our mailings educate our donors on our work which is why they give. Funds do not come in if you are not able to keep your name in front of your donors. People give when they are asked to give.

Please do the right thing and reconsider your proposal.

Sincerely,

*Fr. William J. Farris, OFM*

Fr. William J. Farris, OFM  
Vicar Provincial  
Franciscan Province of St. John the Baptist

*Colleen Cushman*

Colleen Cushman  
Co-Director of Development